



Beaver County Emergency Services

Quarterly Newsletter - Vol. 11, Issue 3

SUMMER 2016

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BEST WISHES TO OUR RETIREES! Schuyler Mu

Emergency Services had a total of 10 employees sign the county's Early Exit Incentive package in early April, opting for early retirement.

A total of seven 9-1-1 dispatchers retired or will be retiring by the end of October, including Ralph Dixon with 29 years of service, Domenic Bedolatti with 28 years of service, Robert Bennett, Michelle Fattore, Keith Girting and Benjamin Rader all with 27 years of service, and Nicholas Sheleheda with 17 years of service. Additionally, maintenance person Susan Pratt retired after 36 years of service, and Deputy Director Randy Dawson and Director Wesley Hill accepted the incentive package as well, with 28 and 31 years of service, respectively. Randy Dawson has returned as a part time employee to assist with the training of new staff, and Director Hill's retirement will be effective this fall.

Cumulatively, Emergency Services will have lost 277 years of experience within the space of a few months. While we feel the loss of their presence daily, we wish all of our retirees a very happy and rewarding next chapter in their lives.

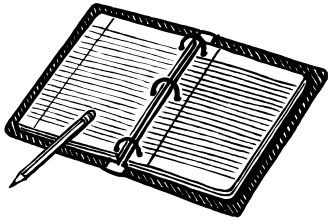


From left to right: Ralph Dixon, Keith Girting, Randy Dawson, Robert Bennett, Michelle Fattore, Domenic Bedolatti, Nicholas Sheleheda and Benjamin Rader.

Beaver County Emergency Services is also beginning a new chapter as an organization. Our employees are stepping up to meet the challenges facing them while keeping the center running as smoothly as ever for the health and safety of the county's residents and businesses.

There are many new faces in our building these days along with a buzz of excitement and activity, and not just because it is a drill year. A class of 20 dispatch trainees, our largest ever, began classroom work in April. Opportunities for advancement abound.

Congratulations are in order to our newest full time dispatchers, Michael Vallecorsa, Jared Shablesky & Christopher Clark as well as new part timer dispatchers Christopher Stone and Brian Speer.



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Wesley Hill, Beaver County
Emergency Services Director

As I write this article for the summer edition of our newsletter, I am reminded of all the things that have already taken place in 2016.

First & foremost, we have been preparing for the Beaver Valley Power Station Bi-Annual exercise which takes place on June 14th. A lot of time, energy, planning and training have taken place in making sure that we will be ready. I

have no doubt that everyone will do well, they always do.

In this edition, you will see some of the events that have taken place in the first half of 2016. Many changes have occurred here at the center over the past few months. A number of our senior personnel took advantage of the County's Exit Incentive Program. That process was a bitter sweet experience. The knowledge, experience and leadership of the senior staff members who retired will be missed. However, for them, a new chapter of life has opened. With their leaving, a new group of people has come on board and are in the process of training, not to replace those who left but to build a new team to do as well or better for the people we serve and protect.

I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming summer months, but remember, keep yourself hydrated with plenty of water. Summer-time heat can and will strike hard and fast. While enjoying the summer weather and all its activities, always be alert and aware of pop up storms that can and do happen frequently during this time of the year. Always have an emergency action plan, at home and while away.

Always be prepared, be conscious and most importantly, pay attention to what goes on around you. To all of our emergency responders, safety is no accident and everyone comes home. In closing, enjoy the summer season and please feel free to call if there is ever anything we can do to help.

DISPATCH TRAINING PROCESS Eric Brewer, Deputy Director

Currently, we are in the process of training new dispatchers due to the recent retirements. For those interested in becoming a 9-1-1 dispatcher, the process starts by submitting an application for county employment, either to the Human Resources Department at the Beaver County Courthouse or to the Emergency Services Center. Once a test date is set, we notify applicants of the date and time for them to take the pre-hire test. The 9-1-1 Center pre-test consists of three sections: 1) Typing - minimum of 35 words per minutes; 2) 100 question test - geography and general knowledge of Beaver County; 3) Listening skills test - ability to listen and follow directions

Once an applicant successfully passes all parts of the testing process, their name is put on a list in order of their test scores. Following county approval to begin a new trainee class, we then choose from the list of eligible hires in the order that is already set. Unfortunately, an applicant could successfully pass all parts of the test but be further down the list than the number of people that we are going to need to bring in for any given training class.

Prior to a trainee class beginning, eligible applicants are notified of the dates and must be available for the class. They must also pass a pre-employment drug screening. The class typically runs Monday through Thursday during the daylight hours, and classroom work continues for approximately one month. During this time, trainees are taught basic orientation, a 40 hour APCO course, a 40 hour APCO EMD course, Haz-Mat R&I, AHA BLS CPR/AED as well as basic CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) functions and basic radio operations.

Following the four week classroom training, dispatch trainees begin observing and getting more advanced into the CAD system. In our training room, we utilize our CAD system in training mode, and trainers simulate calls for the new hires. During the simulation process, we have seasoned dispatch staff and trainers continually giving the trainee calls to enter into the CAD system which they then simulate dispatching over the radio to trainers who are in another room. This simulation process will take approximately another four weeks, depending on how well the trainee groups obtain the information. Once the trainee is put with a dispatcher for one on one training on the console, they will start taking calls and dispatching while being monitored by a full-time dispatcher. Before a trainee gets moved to a regular position, they must be proficient in the call-taking process, three police zones, fire dispatching and EMS dispatching as well as have required certifications which include NIMS 100, 200, 700 and 800. The entire training process could take up to five to six months before a new hire is ready to advance to a regular part time dispatch position.

REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

Wesley W. Hill

On April 26, Region 13 held its annual evaluated Tactical Interoperable Communications Tabletop exercise here at the Beaver County Emergency Operations Center. This year's exercise, titled Steel Thunder, was planned for five hours and was limited to discussion regarding the implementation of operational communications. The exercise scenario involved large scale floods covering multiple areas of jurisdiction and the need for mutual aid assets (command posts vehicles) which would establish interoperable communications with the affected areas.



There were several goals and objectives that needed to be met to ensure the capacity for timely communications in support of security, situational awareness and operations among and between affected communities in the impact area and all response forces. The task force had to identify interoperable radio frequencies for coordinating communications during a large scale flood. They also had to review mutual aid assets / equipment caches and the procedures for deployment. Additionally, they were tasked with determining the process for establishing back up communications in the event the primary communication link failed during a large scale flooding event. Lastly, they had to investigate their ability to facilitate interoperability and emergency communications if EOC failures occurred during the large scale, regional flooding scenario.

In any exercise, assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete the exercise in the time allotted. Exercise participants accept that and do not allow these considerations to negatively impact their participation. At the end of every exercise, an evaluation is completed and is based on the exercise objectives, capabilities, and critical tasks. Additionally, participants will be asked to complete feedback forms. These forms along with facilitator observations and notes will be used to evaluate the exercise and compile the After-Action-Report (AAR). This is just a brief overview to show what the Task Force does when it comes to completing exercises on the regional level. These types of exercises are ongoing, and we always welcome observers and responders to be a part of the event.

OUT OF SEQUENCE EXERCISES HELD

Doug Humble



As part of the Beaver Valley Power Station Emergency Preparedness Federally Evaluated Exercise, Beaver County School Districts, supporting surrounding counties and the Crescent Township Emergency Worker Decontamination Station (pictured) exercised their plans and were evaluated on May 10, 2016.

The preliminary comments from the evaluators were favorable, and a comprehensive report will be completed after all of the evaluated exercises are completed in June.



MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR UPDATES

Doug Humble
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We would like to remind Emergency Management Coordinators that the Beaver Valley Power Station Emergency Preparedness Federally Evaluated Exercise is scheduled for June 14, 2016. We have completed training for Emergency Management Coordinators and their EOC staff members who will be participating in the exercise. We feel confident that all of our municipal volunteers are ready to complete another successful drill.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation for the exercise and the patience you have shown during the last six months of concentrated preparations. We hear it from everyone in the emergency management field that areas that have a nuclear power plants are much more prepared for any major incident than areas that do not have a nuclear power plant; I believe this statement to be true. I have worked in many counties all over the state, and I do believe that Beaver County has more infrastructure (including Local EMC's) and strong internal relationships than most counties. We know each other very well, train together, meet regularly and therefore are better prepared for any emergency that comes our way. Thanks for your efforts, and keep up the good work.

Our next Quarterly Training is scheduled for September 13, 2016.

BVPS UPDATES



David Linkimer
Emergency Planning Off-site Liaison
Beaver Valley Power Station
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724-728-3934 X 2510

Preparations for the June 14 Federally Evaluated Exercise are well under way. On May 10, over a dozen FEMA Evaluators were in town to evaluate our school district's ability to respond to an emergency at BVPS as well as our ability to monitor and decontaminate emergency workers and the general public. Twelve school districts in Beaver County supported by assistance from the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) performed in a successful exercise. The Crescent Volunteer Fire Department successfully demonstrated their capability to monitor and decontaminate emergency workers (see included pictures). Additionally, Allegheny County and Washington County EMA assisted by their Hazmat teams as well as local responders and the American Red Cross performed successful exercises for FEMA. No issues were identified by FEMA at any of these locations. Great job to all involved!!

On May 17 Beaver County EOC staff attended training and a Dry-Run (practice) drill to prepare for the June 14 Evaluated Exercise. Additionally, Beaver County and First Energy staff have been conducting training with Municipal EOCs as well as other support organizations which will continue through June. As you can see there is a great deal of preparation and participation by hundreds of staff and volunteers behind an Evaluated Exercise. FirstEnergy appreciates the time, cooperation and dedication shown by the hundreds of mostly volunteers who help us show FEMA that we can protect the health and safety of the public.

CHIPPEWA IS STORMREADY

Schuyler Mu

Chippewa Township was awarded its designation as a Storm-Ready community by the National Weather Service on May 20th. Pictured from left to right, Chippewa Township Manager Mark Taylor and Township Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, Kevin Whipple accept the StormReady certification from Fred McMullen of the National Weather Service, Pittsburgh.



Chippewa joins Monaca Borough and Beaver County as localities with the StormReady designation in our area. To receive the designation, communities must meet the following criteria:

- Have a 24-hour warning point and Emergency Operations Center
- Have multiple methods of receiving severe weather warnings
- Establish a system for monitoring weather locally
- Involve the public in weather readiness with community seminars
- Create a plan for hazardous weather, including training spotters and conducting exercises

For more information on how your community can become StormReady, please navigate to:
<http://www.stormready.noaa.gov>

FINGERPRINT KIT AVAILABLE

Doug Humble



Beaver County Emergency Services has an Identification System Kit available for loan to agencies interested in offering child identification and record keeping services in their communities. This type of equipment is usually utilized by community service officers. The kit contains a laptop for information entries, a small fingerprint scanner, a small camera for photographs, information cards and a portable printer. It is packaged in a wheeled pelican case, can be transported with relative ease and requires minimal set up time. As with any computer and printer system, it requires an electrical outlet

and table for set up. Instructions are included along with installation aids.

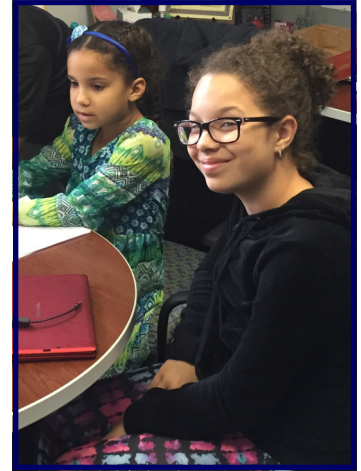
The end product creates a photograph of the child (on the reverse side of the card shown at right) along with their fingerprint and all of their entered personal information. Identification cards go home with parents for safe keeping (dental records can be added at a later date) and, while hopefully never used, the cards may be a valuable resource in a missing child case.

If you are interested in using this identification system in your community, please contact Doug Humble at 724-775-1700 or dhumble@beavercountypa.gov for more information.

Sentry Technologies, L.L.C. BIO-DOC™ Identification Card	
<p>HAVE YOUR DENTIST FILL OUT THIS CHART</p>	
<p>DO IT YOURSELF DNA COLLECTION KIT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rub a clean (sterile if possible) cotton swab* on inside of cheek until moist. 2. Let air dry for 10-15 minutes. 3. When dry, place in Zip-lock bag and seal bag. 4. Fold and place Zip-lock bag in another Zip-lock bag and seal bag. 5. Label with child's name and sample date. 6. Save in freezer until needed. If DNA sample degrades, replace sample. 7. Follow same procedure for blood sample. However, wait until child scrapes or cuts him/herself before taking sample. 	
<p>FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTION OF BABY TEETH.</p>	
<p>WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Call 911 immediately and give responding police officer a copy of your SentryKIDS Bio-DOC. ➤ Take note of the time, date and location of where your child was last seen and by whom. ➤ Make a note of what your child was wearing. ➤ Call your child's friends and document the last time they saw your child. ➤ Call your child's friends and document the last time they saw your child. ➤ Always keep your telephone staffed in case your child tries to call. ➤ Have nearest of the child's SentryKIDS Bio-DOC printed and distributed. ➤ Notify the local radio and TV stations and ask for their help. ➤ Notify a child locator organization to report your missing child. ➤ Never Give Up! Hope! Your child is depending on you! 	
<p>IMPORTANT NUMBERS</p> <p>Name: _____ Area Code: _____ Number: _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Area Code: _____ Number: _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Area Code: _____ Number: _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Area Code: _____ Number: _____</p> <p>Name: _____ Area Code: _____ Number: _____</p>	
<p>Child Protection Education of America, Inc. 1-866-USA-CHILD Vanished Children's Alliance 1-800-VANISHED National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 1-800-THE-LOST SentryKIDS® 1-888-925-KIDS</p>	
<p><small>Copyright: Sentry Technologies, L.L.C., P.O. Box 1022, Bensalem, PA 19020, 1-888-925-KIDS. http://www.SentryKIDS.com, e-mail info@sentrykids.com</small></p>	

NEWS & NOTES

- Beaver County Emergency Services participated in **Bring Your Child to Work Day** on April 28th. Pictured at right, Avery Boyde and Trinity Hubbard helped Brenda Morris in the administrative offices.
- Beaver County Emergency Services is continually striving to grow their **tie in access to security cameras at local facilities**, including those at our county school buildings. If your facility would like the 9-1-1 center to have the capability to utilize cameras at your site, please contact Jim McCarthy by email at jmccarthy@beavercountypa.gov.
- **County ID Badges for public safety personnel** are issued at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center. **Appointments are required in advance, and department head authorization is requested for new IDs.** Please call 724-775-1700 to ensure availability, to schedule an appointment or for more information.



EVENTS CALENDAR

- **June 9:** BVARA Mtg, FCC Tests 5 pm, Business Mtg 6:30 pm
- **June 14:** BVPS Federally Evaluated Exercise
- **June 15:** Chief's Of Police Meeting, Noon, Hazmat Building Training Room
- **June 19:** Happy Father's Day!
- **June 20:** First Day of Summer
- **June 30:** Beaver Valley Lodge #4 FOP Regular Meeting, Rochester VFW, 7 pm
- **July 4:** Happy Independence Day! County Offices Closed
- **July 14:** BVARA Mtg, FCC Tests 5 pm, Business Mtg 6:30 pm
- **July 20:** Chief's Of Police Meeting, Noon, Location TBD
- **July 24:** Beaver Valley Lodge #4 Summer Picnic, Location TBD
- **August 3:** Hazmat Team Training, Hazmat Garage, 6:30 pm
- **August 17:** Chief's Of Police Meeting, Noon, Location TBD
- **August 17:** Hazmat Team Training, Hazmat Garage, 6:30 pm
- **August 20:** BVARA Corn Roast, Location TBD
- **August 24:** Public Safety Commission Meeting, 7 pm
- **August 25:** Beaver Valley Lodge #4 FOP Regular Meeting, Rochester VFW, 7 pm

ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

For more information on any of the above listed events, or to add your public safety event to future calendars, please email Sky at: smu@beavercountypa.gov



EMERGENCY SERVICES

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BEAVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SANDIE EGLEY, CHAIRMAN
DANIEL C. CAMP III
TONY AMADIO

EMERGENCY SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION
WESLEY W. HILL, DIRECTOR
RANDY DAWSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ERIC BREWER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter is created and published by the Beaver County Emergency Services center.

Beaver County Emergency Services is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. Emergency Services manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.

The Emergency Services center is also the home of the county's Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Public Safety Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services. Emergency Services works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to Beaver County.

Want to contribute?
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